

## **Shari Arai DeBoer**

### Artist Statement

As a descendant of Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II, I am both haunted and inspired by their stories. It is only recently, after a lifetime of unease in addressing this history, that I have found my voice to express the importance of their stories.

With shells collected from the dry lakebed of Tule Lake where my family was incarcerated, incarceratedees crafted jewelry and objects of beauty. Through these objects that I have inherited, I examine my sense of connection to this historical injustice, to incarceratedees' tremendous loss and grief, and to their creative energy and resilience.

In other artwork I continue to seek beauty in the minutiae of everyday life and wonders of the natural world. I explore the notion that as we navigate our lives through everyday occurrences and the physical world, within ourselves there is an abundance of wonder, curiosity and growth waiting to be discovered and embraced.